

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

DHA-02 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

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SS-15 /078 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4779

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS LUSAKA 0072

NAIROBI FOR EDMONDSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ZA

SUBJ: FRONTLINE RECOGNITION OF PATRIOTIC FRONT KICKS

UP AN ANC STORM

REF: (A) LUSAKA 0053, (B) 76 LUSAKA 3186 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: PREDICTABLY, MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE FACTIONS
HAVE REACTED NEGATIVELY TO FRONTLINE RECOGNITION OF
THE PATRIOTIC FRONT (REFTEL A). MUZOREWA S SPOKESMEN
SEE THE FRONTLINE ACTION AS A "PLOT TO UNDERMINE THE
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LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN ZIMBABWE." SITHOLE SAID THE
DECISION TO SUPPORT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO THE EXCLUSION

OF OTHERS WAS PROOF OF AN EARLIER CLAIM BY MUZOREWA THAT
ZAMBIA IN COLLABORATION WITH BRITAIN WANTED TO MAKE
NKOMO THE LEADER OF ZIMBABWE. A REPORT DATED LINED
SALISBURY STATES MUZOREWA, IN REACTION TO HIS REJECTION

BY FRONTLINE, IS SEEKING ASSISTANCE OF SMITH TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF AS THE UNDISPUTED LEADER OF RHODESIAN AFRICANS. FOREIGN MINISTER MWALE IS QUOTED AS CHARACTERIZING MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE'S CRITICISM OF THE FRONTLINE ACTION AS "FUTILE AND UNFORTUNATE" RANTINGS WHICH SHOULD BE TREATED WITH CONTEMPT. END SUMMARY.

1. ANC (MUZOREWA) INFORMATION SECRETARY MAX CHIGWIDA READ A PREPARED STATEMENT TO THE PRESS PRIOR TO DELEGATION'S DEPARTURE FOR SALISBURY. THE STATEMENT SAID INTER ALIA, "POSITIONS SERIOUSLY AFFECTING THE FUTURE OF ZIMBABWE HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM THE FRONTLINE STATES ON A BLOC BASIS OF RIGID DICTATORSHIP,. . . THE FRONTLINE STATES FROM THE VERY OUTSET WERE INVOLVED IN THIS PLOT TO INSTALL THEIR TROJAN HORSE, MR. JOSHUA NKOMO (THE GUARDIAN OF IMPERIALISM AS THE FIRST ZIMBABWE PRIME MINISTER (REFTEL B))." THE STATEMENT ALSO SAYS THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE HAVE BEEN SACRIFICED FOR THOSE OF THE FRONTLINE STATES AND THE IMPERIALIST POWERS. THE FRONTLINE PLOT IS A GRAVE TRAGEDY WHICH WILL UNLEASH BITTERNESS AND BLOODSHED, NOT ADVANCE THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS, BUT REDOUND AGAINST ITS SUPPORTERS. THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IS DESCRIBED AS "FRAGILITY ITSELF," CHALLENGED INTERNALLY BY THE FORCES OF A TRIBAL CIVIL WAR. BY BACKING THIS GROUP THE FRONTLINE STATES "HAVE DECIDED TO LAUNCH AND FUEL A REACTIONARY CIVIL WAR IN ZIMBABWE," NKOMO WILL NOT HESITATE TO USE THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED HIM TO SLAUGHTER THE MILLION OF ZIMBABWEANS WHO WILL OPPOSE HIM. IN REMARKS TO THE PRESS, NOT INCLUDED IN THE STATEMENT, UNCLASSIFIED

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CHIGWIDA SAID HIS DELEGATION HAD NOT BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND THE TALKS. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT OAU WOULD ACCEPT THE FRONTLINE STATES' DECISION BECAUSE THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE WILL NOT ACCEPT IMPOSED LEADERS. IN SALISBURY, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UANC (MUZOREWA), GORDON CHAVUNDUKA, SAID, "THE PRESIDENTS DO NOT LIVE IN RHODESIA AND HAVE NO RIGHT TO TELL THE SEVEN MILLION PEOPLE HERE HOW THEY SHOULD ACT AND FEEL." CHAVUNDUKA WENT ON TO ADD THAT THIS WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME THE PRESIDENTS HAD MADE SUCH OUTBURSTS, BUT THEY DIDN'T MEAN VERY MUCH. "THE PRESIDENTS HAVE A BAD HABIT OF TALKING A LOT, BUT DOING VERY LITTLE."

2. REVEREND SITHOLE ON HIS DEPARTURE FROM LUSAKA CITED THE FRONTLINE DECISION TO BACK THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AS "PROOF" THAT ZAMBIA AND BRITAIN IN COLLABORATION WANTED TO MAKE NKOMO THE LEADER OF AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE. SITHOLE IS QUOTED IN THE PRESS AS SAYING, "I DO NOT WANT TO QUESTION THE PRESIDENTS BECAUSE I TAKE IT THAT THAT

IS THE BEST THEY COULD DO, BUT THEIR BEST IS NOT OURS."

3. A REPORT FROM SALISBURY CITES GOVERNMENT SOURCES AS INDICATING THAT SMITH COULD WELL SUPPORT MUZOREWA IF HE SEEKS ASSISTANCE. SMITH IS REPORTED AS VIEWING MUZOREWA AND HIS GROUP AS RELATIVELY MODERATE. SAME ITEM NOTES THAT SMITH IS LIKELY TO INTERPRET FRONTLINE DECISION AS A MILITANT ACT OF HOSTILITY AGAINST HIM.

4. GRZ FOREIGN MINISTER MWALE IS REPLYING TO THE ANC/MUZOREWA SAID THAT THE FRONTLINE STATES GAVE THEIR SUPPORT TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT BECAUSE OF THE UNITED EFFORTS ITS TWO LEADERS HAD MADE AT GENEVA. THE FRONTLCN

STATES WANT TO SEE A UNITED LIBERATION MOVEMENT AT GENEVA WITHOUT CLASHES OF INTEREST AND PERSONALITY. ALSO, IT IS "GROSSLY IRRESPONSIBLE" FOR THE ANC TO CLAIM THAT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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FRONTLINE STATES ARE WORKING HAND AND GLOVE WITH IMPERIALISTS AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THE ZIMBABWEANS. MWALE CHARACTERIZED THE ATTACKS AS "FUTILE AND UNFORTUNATEY" RANTINGS WHICH SHOULD BE TREATED WITH CONTEMPT. LOW

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